

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 023925

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PORT, PO

SUBJECT:APPROACH TO GOP

FOR AMBASSADOR:

1. YOU SHOULD SEEK IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES TO DISCUSS RUMORS AND REPORTS OF SOVIET-PORTUGUESE NEGOTIATIONS ON GRANTING BASE FOR SOVIET FISHING FLEET. EVEN THOUGH REPORTS HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY DENIED BY GOP FONOFF, THE FACT REMAINS THAT FOREIGN PRESS WAS GIVEN THIS INFORMATION, WHICH ENSURED ITS WIDESPREAD PUBLICATION, THUS RAISING QUESTION WHAT REAL MOTIVES IN SUCH LEAKS WERE. YOU SHOULD MAKE THE POINT THAT WHILE WE DO NOT OBJECT TO NORMALIZATION OF PORTUGUESE-SOVIET RELATIONS, WE CAN ONLY SET THIS AGAINST WHAT APPEARS TO BE GROWING ANTI-NATO SENTIMENT, REFLECTED IN ATTACKS ON NATO EXERCISE.

2. WE CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL THAT THERE IS SOME LINK BETWEEN
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PLANTED REPORTS OF SOVIET BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND DENUNCIATION OF NATO EXERCISE; A POSSIBLE IMPLICATION IS THAT A PRETEXT IS BEING SOUGHT FOR ADVOCATING NON-ALIGNMENT.

3. AMBASSADOR ALSO SHOULD UNDERLINE TO PRIME MINISTER AND OTHERS IN AFM POWER STRUCTURE OUR CONTINUING CONCERNS OVER DIRECTION OF EVENTS, NAMELY WHAT APPEARS TO BE STRENGTHENING OF PCP INFLUENCE AT THE EXPENSE OF NON-COMMUNIST PARTIES AND FORCES.

4. FYI: IN ADDITION TO CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER, YOU SHOULD ENSURE THAT TENOR OF YOUR PRESENTATION IS ALSO KNOWN TO OTHERS IN AFM LIKE ALVES, ANTUNES OR ANY OTHERS YOU BELIEVE MAY BE WORKING FOR MODERATION.

5. FYI: THE POINT THAT THE EMBASSY SHOULD PRIVATELY UNDERSCORE IN ALL ITS CONTACTS IS THAT US CANNOT BE PASSIVE WHILE NATO ALLY DRIFTS TOWARD LEFT-WING, EXTREMIST, ANTI-NATO POSTURE. STRENGTHENING OF PRESENT TRENDS WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE SERIOUS IMPACT ON RANGE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND PORTUGAL

6. AFTER SEEING GONCALVES, YOU SHOULD MAKE SAME DEMARCHE TO COSTA GOMES AND SOARES. KISSINGER

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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